

# AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra

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## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, DECEMBER 1979

### INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr Geoff Winter on Canberra 526576 or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616  
For copies of this publication contact Information Services, Canberra 526626 or State offices.

### MAIN FEATURES

The figures below refer to industrial disputes involving stoppages of 10 man-days or more.

Approximately 59,000 working days were lost by 31,000 workers involved in 106 disputes during December 1979.

The major disputes involved meat products employees in Victoria and electricity generation employees in Queensland.

In the year 1979 an estimated 1.9 million workers involved in disputes lost approximately 4.0 million working days and \$148.6 million in wages.

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

#### Introduction

More detailed information about disputes appears in the quarterly publication *Industrial Disputes* (6322.0).

2. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC), described in *Australian Standard Industrial Classification (Preliminary Edition)*, 1969, Vol. 1 (1201.0).

#### Coverage

3. The statistics refer only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more. Workers involved include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute. Particulars of some stoppages (e.g. those involving a large number of establishments) may have

been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving a broad measure of the extent of stoppages of work (as defined).

4. Stoppages of work occurring at different times and at different establishments, but having a common cause may be regarded as one industrial dispute. However, an industrial dispute occurring in more than one State is counted as a separate dispute in each State. The monthly statistics refer to all disputes operative in the month, including those disputes that commenced in previous months. In Table 1 details of the number of disputes and workers involved are shown separately for disputes beginning in the month and for all disputes. Average days lost per worker involved on a monthly basis are not comparable with the yearly averages, because workers involved are included in each month in which they are involved in disputes, while they are counted once only for each dispute in the annual statistics.

#### Related publications

5. Users may also wish to refer to the following publication:

*Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0) — quarterly and annual.

6. All current publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

#### Symbols and other usages

p preliminary — figure subject to revision.  
r revised

7. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

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Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Workers involved ('000)		Working days lost		Estimated loss in wages (a) (\$'000)
	Commenced in period	Total (a)	Newly involved (b)	Total (a)	Number (a) ('000)	Average days per worker involved (c)	
1977	2,083	2,090	595.8	596.2	1,654.8	2.8	59,674
1978	2,276	2,277	1,075.6	1,075.6	2,130.8	2.0	78,404
1979 p	2,038	2,040	1,861.6	1,862.9	3,964.4	2.1	148,614
1978 — November	203	248	53.3	72.8	170.7	2.3	6,184
December	105	126	81.2	89.1	114.7	1.3	4,253
1979 — January	131	133	24.0	25.2	51.0	2.0	2,199
February	197	214	75.0	79.0	233.0	3.0	10,195
March	256	290	84.5	99.5	222.9	2.2	8,461
April (d)	138	188	42.8	68.2	151.9	2.2	5,346
May	234	260	100.8	109.8	233.3	2.1	8,904
June	166	213	1,156.5	1,199.4	1,582.3	1.3	56,394
July	144	196	86.3	307.2	612.8	2.0	22,267
August	156	201	64.2	118.3	241.2	2.0	9,156
September	135	178	58.6	174.7	210.8	1.2	8,456
October p	198	233	52.0	93.3	171.0	1.8	6,852
November p	208	234	102.3	121.0	195.3	1.6	17,925
December p	75	106	14.7	31.3	58.8	1.9	2,460

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Comprises workers involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional workers involved in disputes which continued from the previous month. (c) Monthly figures are not comparable with yearly figures.

(d) Excludes truck owner-drivers who participated in blockades and employees stood down as a result.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA  
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (a)

Period	Manufacturing				Transport and storage; communication				All industries	
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Stevedoring services	Other	Other industries (b)		
	Coal	Other								
1977	102.8	170.9	204.4	455.7	215.2	39.9	172.6	293.3	1,654.8	
1978	142.3	125.1	732.1	490.2	134.1	122.9	166.9	217.2	2,130.8	
1979 p	232.6	283.6	929.7	749.0	359.7	114.3	435.8	859.7	3,964.4	
1978 — November	4.4	6.1	46.1	56.1	8.3	4.7	6.2	38.8	170.7	
December	6.4	2.3	33.0	17.7	3.9	4.7	32.1	14.6	114.7	
1979 — January	5.6	5.4	8.1	7.5	11.6	2.0	3.6	7.2	51.0	
February	12.2	7.2	52.9	21.3	15.0	1.9	43.7	78.9	233.0	
March	17.2	15.2	46.5	27.6	24.6	1.6	67.8	22.4	222.9	
April (c)	1.8	5.4	21.0	33.9	11.5	6.3	58.3	13.8	151.9	
May	11.3	35.3	31.5	26.8	37.3	6.8	25.8	58.6	233.3	
June	33.1	81.0	394.6	294.7	158.2	18.0	129.9	472.9	1,582.3	
July	63.1	62.3	224.8	105.6	45.8	25.7	46.1	39.5	612.8	
August	14.9	25.6	33.9	27.3	18.9	42.6	34.2	44.0	241.2	
September	24.2	6.3	61.7	62.8	9.2	1.8	7.0	37.8	210.8	
October p	24.1	14.9	21.0	52.4	3.3	0.7	10.8	43.8	171.0	
November p	22.4	19.3	26.4	65.1	22.5	3.0	6.1	30.6	195.3	
December p	2.9	5.8	7.4	23.9	1.8	4.0	2.7	10.3	58.8	

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) ASIC divisions A, D, F, I to L. (c) See footnote (d) to Table 1.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES  
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (b)
1977	538.2	586.1	240.8	30.6	220.5	26.7	1,654.8
1978	970.8	468.1	360.3	79.1	197.9	35.4	2,130.8
1979 p	1,369.9	1,486.1	467.9	186.5	348.1	59.8	3,964.4
1978 — November	59.9	33.8	33.8	7.3	34.1	0.7	170.7
December	30.6	17.3	44.2	4.7	17.4	0.6	114.7
1979 — January	22.6	15.3	3.6	0.2	7.8	0.7	51.0
February	158.4	46.9	5.4	9.1	6.6	2.7	233.0
March	103.1	71.8	18.7	4.4	10.2	6.4	222.9
April (c)	60.1	55.6	12.8	11.1	9.2	2.1	151.9
May	72.2	93.9	8.8	9.3	39.7	4.1	233.3
June	454.4	658.1	186.9	69.8	180.7	16.7	1,582.3
July	207.9	205.8	95.9	32.5	59.5	8.5	612.8
August	75.1	92.3	30.6	20.1	14.0	7.7	241.2
September	71.0	85.5	32.7	11.1	3.7	5.4	210.8
October p	57.7	48.8	43.3	7.4	9.9	1.4	171.0
November p	70.1	86.5	18.2	11.0	3.7	3.4	195.3
December p	17.4	25.7	10.9	0.5	3.1	0.6	58.8

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (c) See footnote (d) to Table 1.